



Dollars in Thousands

ABS024 Recommendation Summary
Supreme Court
2024 First Supplemental Budget Session
2024SC - 2024 Supplemental - Supreme Court

	Average Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
CB T0PL Current Biennium Base	76.7	30,079	0	30,079
2023-25 Current Biennium Total	76.7	30,079	0	30,079
Total Carry Forward Level	76.7	30,079	0	30,079
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
	0.0	0	0	0
Total Maintenance Level	76.7	30,079	0	30,079
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Policy – Other Changes				
PL AA Secure the Supreme Court and TOJ	0.0	1,922	0	1,922
PL AB Reduce Barriers to Appellate Access	0.3	145	0	145
PL AC Compensate Lived Experience Experts	0.0	50	0	50
PL AD Ensure Access to Justice (ADA)	0.0	250	0	250
Policy – Other Total	0.3	2,367	0	2,367
Subtotal - Policy Level Changes	0.3	2,367	0	2,367
2023-25 Total Policy Level	77.0	32,446	0	32,446
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.3%	7.9%	.0%	7.9%

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PL AA Secure the Supreme Court and TOJ

The Supreme Court requests \$1.9 million in funding to contract with the Washington State Patrol and private security firms for an increased security presence at the Temple of Justice, particularly on oral argument days when the Bailiff is stationed in the Courtroom. Increased security is critical to securing both the employees of the Court as well as the Justices themselves given the increasing number of threats and the escalating severity of those threats.

Included in this request is the necessary equipment and technology upgrades to make security effective, such as video cameras with resolution high enough to be useful in an investigation and camera recording and badging systems that communicate with main campus security systems. (General Fund-State)

PL AB Reduce Barriers to Appellate Access

The Supreme Court requests \$144,500 for a study to identify barriers to the appellate justice system for unrepresented appellants. Currently, there are substantial expenses associated with filing an appeal, and no effective mechanism for waiving those expenses for low-income individuals. These (and many other) barriers are compounded for appellants with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities requiring accommodation to enable them to effectively participate in the appellate proceeding. The right to appellate review is therefore illusory for many thousands of people aggrieved by and who wish to seek appellate review of trial court decisions.

The full extent of the problems of and solutions to address the systemic and institutional obstacles is unknown, and that effectively prevents access to justice for unrepresented litigants in our appellate courts. The logical first step is an intensive and inclusive research and discovery phase – one that not only seeks input from representatives from trial and appellate courts, but also significant and meaningful involvement of and engagement with individuals who may seek or have sought review in our appellate court system without the assistance of legal counsel. (General Fund-State)

PL AC Compensate Lived Experience Experts

The Supreme Court is requesting \$50,000 ongoing to compensate the community members who serve on Supreme Court boards and commissions for their time and efforts. Without this compensation, these entities will lose valuable members who bring their lived experience perspectives to the boards' and commissions' work. (General Fund-State)

PL AD Ensure Access to Justice (ADA)

The Supreme Court requests funding to begin the process of ensuring access to the Temple of Justice for individuals with disabilities. The TOJ is generally inaccessible to anyone who has difficulty using stairs and, in those instances (such as a Court oral argument) when a non-Court employee needs to access the building, the only pathway through the building to the courtroom compromises the security of Court staff and the Justices. For non-Court business, such as tours or other presentations, access for individuals with disabilities is generally non-existent. Not only does this violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it violates the principles enshrined in both our federal and state constitutions, ensuring equal access to justice. The process to fix this gross inequity starts with an ADA study of the Temple of Justice. (General Fund-State)

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Report Number: ABS024

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